

Application No.: 09/728857

Case No.: 56208US002

Remarks

Claims 56-81 are pending. Claims 1-55 have been canceled. Claims 56-81 have been added. Support for new claims 56-80 appears throughout the specification and, in particular, as follows:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Support</u>
56	Original claims 1 and 14
57	Original claim 2
58	Original claim 3
59	Original claim 4
60	Original claim 5
61	Original claim 6
62	Original claim 7
63	Original claim 8
64	Original claim 10
65	Original claim 14
66	Original claim 21
67	Original claims 28, 30, and 33
68	Original claim 29
69	Original claim 31
70	Original claim 32
71	Original claim 34
72	Original claim 35
73	Original claim 36
74	Original claim 37
75	Original claim 38
76	Original claim 39
77	Original claim 40
78	Original claim 41
79	Page 1, lines 21-22
80	Page 20, line 13, and Page 24, line 5
81	Original claim 42

All previously pending claims have been canceled and new claims 56-81 have been added to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention. New independent claim 56 is directed to a water dispersible finishing composition comprising a urethane and a stainblocker, wherein the urethane comprises the reaction of a polyisocyanate, a long chain alcohol, and a polyethylene oxide containing at least one hydroxy group, and the urethane has a weighted

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average hydrophilic / lipophilic balance (HLB) ranging from about 1 to about 11. None of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests a finishing compound as defined in new independent claim 56.

More specifically, none of Tetenbaum et al. (US 4,499,233), Kim (US 4,180,491), or Sugawara et al. (US 4,240,943) disclose, teach or suggest, whether taken alone or in combination, a finishing composition comprising a urethane and a stainblocker, wherein the urethane comprises the reaction of a polyisocyanate, a long chain alcohol, and a polyethylene oxide containing at least one hydroxy group, and the urethane has a weighted average hydrophilic / lipophilic balance (HLB) ranging from about 1 to about 11. Nor would there be any reason to modify or combine the references with each other or with other references in a manner that would be necessary to meet the present invention as defined in new independent claim 56.

Accordingly, independent claim 56 is believed to be patentable over the cited references. The remaining dependent claims, as depending from allowable claims, are also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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